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FLOOR DEBATE

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from this bill, it also leaves that language completely stricken. This language would say that after a third DUI, or whatever the number is, a person whose license was revoked for that reason, who is found driving a car, would be guilty of a Class IV felony. Meaning you could get up to five years and a \$10,000 fine just for driving the car. Not DUI; not for harming anybody; just being behind the wheel of the car. If you had one conviction like that and you got another one, then it becomes a Class III felon,. You're talking about manslaughter...these are the kind of things that are Class IV and III felonies...first-degree assault, assault on an officer, illegal abortion, and on and on, which is suggesting that either those crimes are not very significant, or we're raising driving without a license to that level. Senator Kruse is not of a mind to do that. The fortunate thing for me in the way he drafted the bill is that it brought to my attention what is in the law now. So we all agree that is overkill. It's enough to let a person caught driving while licenses are suspended to be punished the way anybody else is whose license is suspended. See, I could get mine suspended if they catch me four times ripping up and down the highway 150 miles an hour. And that would make me a dangerous person. Well, not me, because I drive so well. But the ordinary person. You could argue that anybody who had a license...

SPEAKER BROM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...suspended for that reason is dangerous. Yet if he or she is caught driving without the license, it's six months. So regardless of the reason for which a person's license is suspended, if the only offense we're dealing with is driving with a suspended license, the punishment should be the same. No matter how angry we are at people who have driven drunk in the past, or how much contempt we have for somebody who is so weak that they will drink and drive, we should not skew the law. So the other part of Senator Kruse's amendment, with which I agree, is that we will take away this provision that simply driving without a license is a Class IV felony, and in some places...cases, a Class III felony. If we don't do that this year, by the time we're out of here and two new crews come in here, it will be up to a Class I, or IA, which can get you